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FTA NEWS

FOOD, TOBACCO, AG[illegible]AL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA—CIO

Vol. VII, No. 9 July 15, 1947 Price 5 Cents

SET POLICY ON TAFT ACT

—(See Pages 4, 5)]

Win At Campbell, Reynolds

—(See Pages 3, 6)]

Urge Political Action Beamed At New Party

("The basic aim of labor political action is create a new political party, based on the people's needs and operated solely in their interest," the FTA-CIO National Policy Conference said in its Philadelphia session this week. Below is the full text of this new political action program, adopted unanimously by the meeting.)

I

The record of Republican and Democratic leaders in Congress and the Administration of President Truman, and in the state governments as well, shows that workers can have no confidence in either party as a means of obtaining benefits for the common people.

The alliance of tory Republicans and reactionary Democrats has long held up progressive laws in Congress and has passed many anti-labor and anti-people's laws, winding up with the Taft-Hartley slave labor act. It passed the soak-the-poor tax bill of 1944 and is now giving a new handout to the rich by reviving HR 1, the 1947 Republican tax bill once vetoed by President Truman.

These two measures are part of a general pattern of legislation aimed at destroying the people's right to organize and to fight against exploitation. Their sponsors' plan is to help the rich become still richer and the poor still poorer.

Among such acts of the Republican-Democratic alliance were the killing of price control, the killing of the wage-hour act, the killing of rent control, and the flat refusal to act on housing, health, education and the abolition of lynching, the poll-tax and jim crow in employment.

(Continued on Page 5)

Fight For Freedom . . .

From FTA-CIO's National Policy Conference resolution on Independent Political Organization:

"The record of Republican and Democratic leaders . . . shows that the workers can have no confidence in either party as a means of obtaining benefits for the common people.

* * *

"The Taft-Hartley act was written by the trusts, sponsored by the Republican Party and accepted without a struggle by the Democratic Party leadership.

* * *

"The program of labor political organization must be based on the nationalization of the trusts that now exploit workers, farmers and consumers alike.

* * *

"The basic aim of labor political action is to create a new political party, built on the people's needs and operated solely in their interests. A new American people's party made up of workers, farmers, white collar workers and others who exploit neither labor nor the people generally. It must be started and led by labor, because labor is the strongest organized force for democracy.

* * *

"It is our task . . . to start the American people's movement on the way to an American people's party. With unity of all workers, regardless of union affiliation, and of all progressives, we shall defeat the fascism that the Taft-Hartley Act has brought to our country."

FTA WILL NOT USE NEW LABOR BOARD

FTA-CIO, in line with policy set by other CIO unions, will "submit no issue" to the new National Labor Relations Board set up under the Taft-Hartley Act, the National Policy Conference, meeting this week in Philadelphia, Pa., declared in a unanimous resolution on the slave labor act.

At the same time, FTA will refuse to obey sections of the Taft-Hartley act that seek to outlaw labor political action and to muzzle freedom of the labor press, the conference declared.

"Because the Taft-Hartley act gives employers free [illegible] and damage suits, FTA-CIO will no longer include no-strike pledges in its contracts and will seek to remove them where they at present exist," it added.

"The Taft-Hartley Act was written by the bosses, sponsored by the Republican Party and passed by Congress without real resistance on the part of President Truman or leaders of the Democratic Party, as part of a general plan to break unions and reduce workers to the conditions of slave labor."

For this reason, the Policy Conference said, FTA will fight with all its strength for the repeal of the act and for the political defeat of all members of Congress who voted for it.

Text of the resolution follows in full:

The Taft-Hartley act was written by the bosses, sponsored by the Republican Party and passed by Congress without real resistance on the part of President Truman or leaders of the Democratic Party as part of a general plan to break unions and reduce workers to the conditions of slave labor.

As CIO President Philip Murray and the CIO Executive Board have said: "The purpose of this bill is to render unions powerless to resist wage cuts, speed-ups and the return of sweatshop conditions. It has been made completely unworkable so that workers will be robbed of even the meager protections which survive in the bill.

The further description of the act by President Murray as "the first real step toward the development of fascism in the United States of America" is a correct statement of the purposes of its sponsors and supporters.

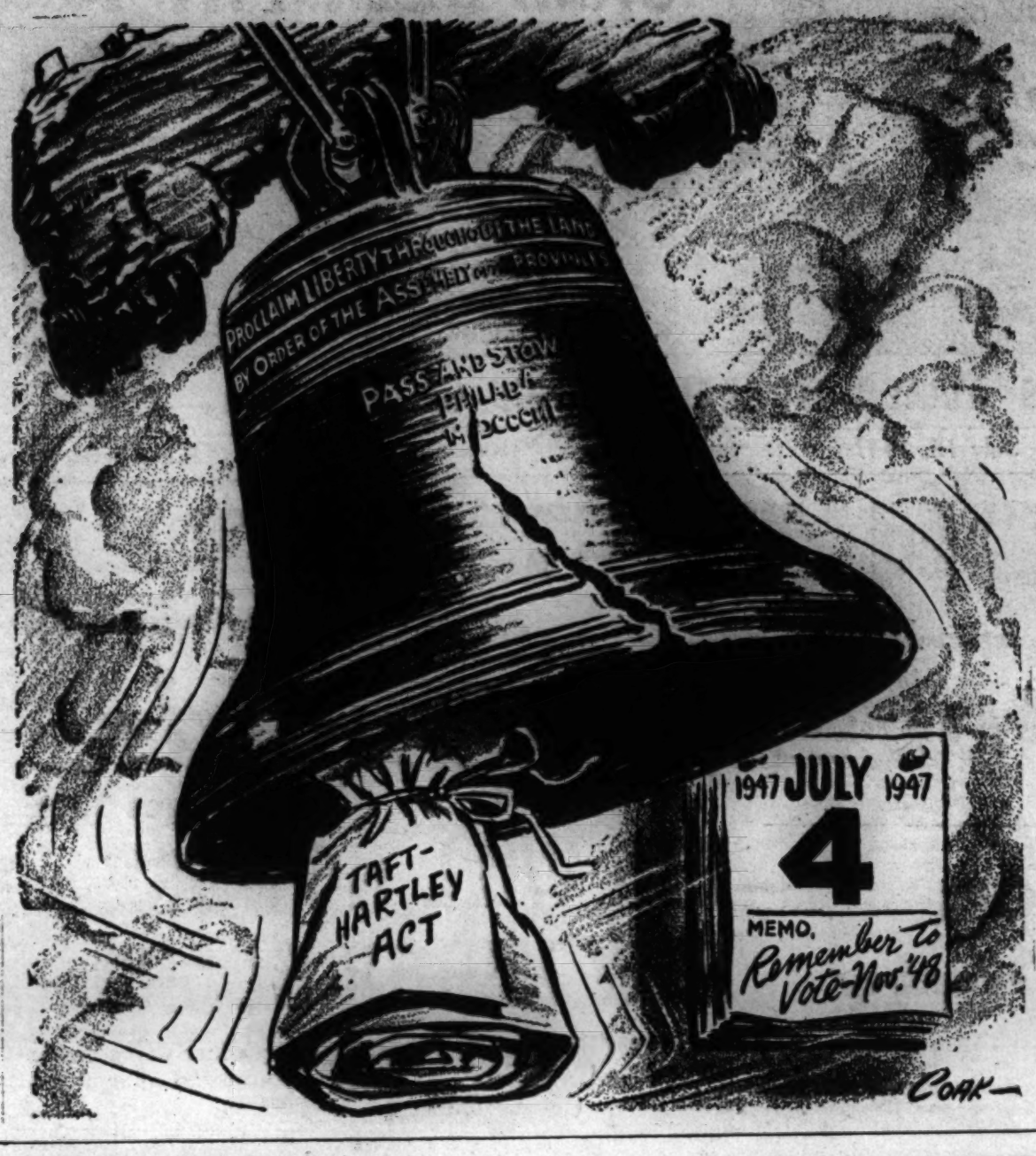
TO PRESERVE OUR UNION

In order to preserve our union, and to preserve and strengthen the gains made by workers under the jurisdiction of FTA-CIO, we must resist this fascist law with every means at our command.

The Taft-Hartley act violates every right that American workers have won over past generations of struggle. It seeks to turn all U.S. Government agencies dealing with labor over to the employers in order to oppress labor.

The Taft-Hartley act also seeks to destroy the right of the American people to freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and the right to petition for the redress of grievances.

(Continued on Page 4)



They Voted For Slave Act

These are the Senators who voted for final passage of the Taft-Hartley slave labor act over the protests of millions of Americans and over the veto of President Truman.

Only 25 Senators voted against the law that CIO President Murray called the "first real step toward the development of fascism in the U.S.A." Sixty-eight voted for it, by voting to over-ride the veto.

The Taft-Hartley act will be fought by the American people until it is repealed. A main step in that fight is to remember the names of the Senators who voted against free labor, for slave labor, and to vote them out of office when the time comes.

Each Senator who voted for the Taft-Hartley act has "W" after his name, for a wrong vote. Every Senator who voted against it has "R" after his name, for a right vote. "O" means the Senator did not vote.

ALABAMA
Lister Hill (D) ____ R
John J. Sparkman ____ R

ARIZONA
Carl Hayden (D) ____ R
Ernest W. McFarland (D) ____ R

ARKANSAS
J. W. Fulbright (D) ____ W
John L. McClellan (D) ____ W

CALIFORNIA
Sheridan Downey (D) ____ R
W. F. Knowland (R) ____ W

COLORADO
Edwin C. Johnson (D) ____ R
Eugene D. Millikin (R) ____ W

FLORIDA
Spessard L. Holland (D) ____ W
Claude Pepper (D) ____ R

GEORGIA
Walter F. George (D) ____ W
Richard B. Russell (D) ____ W

ILLINOIS
C. Wayland Brooks (R) ____ W
Scott W. Lucas (D) ____ R

INDIANA
Homer Capehart (R) ____ W
William E. Jenner (R) ____ W

IOWA
B. B. Hickenlooper (R) ____ W
George A. Wilson (R) ____ W

KENTUCKY
Alben W. Barkley (D) ____ R
John S. Cooper (R) ____ W

LOUISIANA
Allen J. Ellender (D) ____ W
John H. Overton (D) ____ W

MARYLAND
Herbert R. O'Conor (D) ____ W
Millard E. Tydings (D) ____ W

MICHIGAN
Homer Ferguson (R) ____ W
A. H. Vandenberg (R) ____ W

MINNESOTA
Joseph H. Ball (R) ____ W
Edward J. Thye (R) ____ W

MISSISSIPPI
Theodore G. Bilbo (D) ____ O
James O. Eastland (D) ____ W

MISSOURI
Forrest C. Donnell (R) ____ W
James P. Kem (R) ____ W

MONTANA
Zales N. Ecton (R) ____ W
James E. Murray (D) ____ R

NEW JERSEY
Albert W. Hawkes (R) ____ W
H. Alexander Smith (R) ____ W

NEW MEXICO
Dennis Chavez (D) ____ R
Carl A. Hatch (D) ____ W

NEW YORK
Irving M. Ives (R) ____ W
Robert F. Wagner (D) ____ O

NORTH CAROLINA
Wm. B. Umstead (D) ____ W
Clyde R. Hoey (D) ____ W

OHIO
John W. Bricker (R) ____ W
Robert A. Taft (R) ____ W

OKLAHOMA
E. H. Moore (R) ____ W
Elmer Thomas (D) ____ W

OREGON
Guy Cordon (R) ____ W
Wayne Morse (R) ____ R

PENNSYLVANIA
Edward Martin (R) ____ W
Francis J. Myers (D) ____ R

SOUTH CAROLINA
Olin D. Johnston (D) ____ R
Burnet R. Maybank (D) ____ W

TENNESSEE
Kenneth McKellar (D) ____ W
Tom Stewart (D) ____ W

TEXAS
Tom Connally (D) ____ W
W. Lee O'Daniel (D) ____ W

VIRGINIA
Harry F. Byrd (D) ____ W
A. Willias Robertson (D) ____ W

WASHINGTON
Harry P. Cain (R) ____ W
Warren G. Magnuson (D) ____ R

WEST VIRGINIA
Harley M. Kilgore (D) ____ R
Chapman Reverconb (R) ____ W

WISCONSIN
Joseph R. McCarthy (R) ____ W
Alexander Wiley (R) ____ W

FROM WASHINGTON

STORY OF A SELLOUT

By ELIZABETH SASULY

The responsibility of the Republican Party for passage of the slave labor law is clear. As the majority in both houses, it put into legislative terms and drove through Congress the anti-labor program set forth during the 1946 elections by the NAM and big business generally.

NAM lawyers actually wrote the original Hartley bill and the final version of the Taft-Hartley bill. 225 out of 245 Republicans in the House and 48 out of 51 Republicans in the Senate voted to override the veto.

"This vote (in the Senate to sustain the veto) will be the test of whether the Democratic party can be the instrument for the protection of the interests of the American people against those who would destroy our democracy," CIO President Philip Murray said on June 22 in a wire to Senate Democratic leader Barkley and Democratic National Committee Chairman Hannegan.

This test was not met. That is the first and most important fact in the record. The Democratic Party failed to come through for the American people in the most important fight which has taken place since any of us became union members.

"Well," some people will say, "maybe the Democrats didn't win for us, but they tried, and, after all that is the most you can expect."

The plain fact is that the Democratic party leadership made no serious attempts to mobilize the necessary votes. In the original vote on the Hartley bill in the House, 93 Democrats voted for the bill. In the vote to override the veto 106 Democrats voted for the bill. The Democratic Party not only failed to gain support for the veto, but actually lost 13 votes. Only 37 per cent of the Democratic membership (71 congressmen) of the House voted to sustain the veto.

From the beginning it was known that the crucial fight would take place in the Senate. But only 22 out of 44 Democrats in the Senate voted to sustain the veto. This was just one vote more than the number which voted against the passage of the Taft bill.

On the day of the veto message Truman had lunch with 11 Democratic Senators. His pressure on these Senators to change their vote was limited to asking them to read the veto message.

On the day of the veto message, Senators Pepper, Taylor and Morse fought for postponement of the vote to allow the country to express its reaction. But Senate Democratic leader Barkley not only failed to lead in this fight, aimed at mobilizing support for the veto, but drove right ahead to secure unanimous consent for a vote the following day, saying on the Senate floor, "Sometimes pressures do more harm than good."

The fight was carried on by Senators Pepper, Taylor, Morse and Kilgore, with no help from the official Democratic leadership. And while the opponents of the bill were fighting to bring the issues to the people, a New York Times headline said (June 22) "Truman Watches Ballgame as Senate Fights Over Veto."

The single most significant proof of lack of good faith on the part of the Democratic party was its failure to have pro-labor Senator Elbert Thomas present for the vote. Senator Thomas was sent by President Truman to a conference in Geneva, Switzerland, shortly before the vote on the veto, over the protests of CIO leaders.

Then Democratic Committee vice-chairman Sullivan promised he would come back. Although a plane was waiting to bring him back, Thomas told CIO leaders on the phone 36 hours before the vote that he had been told it was not necessary for him to return. Similar assurances were given that Senator Wagner, despite his illness, would come from New York on a special train. But Senator Wagner was never told he was needed.

Twenty-five Senators voted to sustain the veto. Thirty-two were needed. Thomas and Wagner would have made 27. No effort was made to switch additional Democratic votes, in spite of the fact that several Democratic senators are facing such tough primary fights when they come up in 1948, that the threat of national Democratic support to their opponents could have been effective. If three more Democratic senators had been lined up, two Republicans, Senators Aiken of Vermont and Tobey of New Hampshire would have voted to sustain. Senator Aiken said to a CIO representative the day following the veto vote that he and Tobey had been ready to vote to sustain but had decided not to do so because the Democratic party was not making any serious efforts to sustain the veto, and under these circumstances they decided to vote to override in order to "preserve some influence within the Republican Party."

This fight could have been won if the Democratic leadership had played it straight.

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Big smiles on these FTA 80 and 194 negotiators, pictured with General Secretary-Treasurer Harold J. Lane (seated) show how they feel about the victory in the Campbell Soup negotiations that brought 14.7 cents an hour, pension and other gains to members in Camden, N. J. and Chicago. From left, standing: Ernest Fox, Paul Gardner, Henry Gistover, George White, Wm. Venuski, Herbert Kling, Dick Garrison, Wm. Blount, George Dance. Seated: Minnie Lee Wilson, Veronica Kryzan, Peter Aleck, Josephine Chlupsa, Harold J. Lane, John Jurghenson, Brother Morris, John Gallegher. Missing from picture are Anthony Valentino and Ben Butler of Local 80, and Lewis A. Bentzley, FTA vice-President.

CAMPBELL PAY IS HIGHEST IN U.S.A. IN FTA CONTRACT

A total of 15.3 cents an hour in wage increases and other economic gains brought the wages of Campbell Soup workers up to the highest level in the U.S. food industry, following signing of new contracts won by FTA Local 80, Camden, N. J., and Local 194, Chicago.

On top of that, the contract includes a pension plan, paid entirely by the company and first to be won on a large scale by any union in the mass production food industry.

Wages for Campbell Soup workers won by FTA-CIO now stand at an average of $1.31 an hour, not only the highest in the large scale food industry of the U.S. but higher than many averages in manufacturing, including the steel industry.

"The signing of a contract between FTA Local 80 and 194 and Campbell Soup is a notable victory for the workers of the entire food processing industry," said FTA Secretary-Treasurer Harold J. Lane, who helped in the lengthy negotiations.

"Great credit must be given to the members of the negotiating committee, all of whom worked hard for more than five months to win the contract, and to the rank and file in Camden and Chicago for their patience, understanding and plain common sense in backing up their negotiations at all times.

"The signing of this contract demonstrates the fallacy behind the Taft-Hartley law, since it shows that genuine collective bargaining, carried on in good faith and without government interference, can settle disputes fairly and justly."

The pension, which FTA aims to extend to other industries under its jurisdiction is the first to be included in Campbell agreements.

In addition to providing for company payment of all costs, set at one percent of basic earnings for each year of service over $50 a month, the plan sets the minimum pension at $25 a month, plus all Social Security benefits. Pension payments begin on reaching 65, or earlier with the consent of the company and at a reduced scale.

Workers who leave the company after the age of 55 with 20 years or more of seniority receive all pension benefits paid in. If a worker dies after 55 while in company employ his beneficiary receives five years of pension payments at the rate the worker had attained at death. If he dies within five years of retirement, his beneficiary gets the benefits for the balance of the five year period. All workers are eligible after five years with the company and after reaching 30.

Farm support mobilized by FTA during the five months long negotiations helped considerably in winning the agreement. At one point after the company had set aside the old contract, and was stalling on the new one, the Eastern Division of the Natl. Farmers Union issued a statement to tomato growers pinning the blame for any possible stoppage and loss of crops on the company.

In the event of a stoppage, Farmers Union leader Ed Yeomans pointed out, "the farmer's contract with the company would be worthless . . . He could claim no indemnity for his losses and Campbell's could buy tomatoes at less than the contract price."

The campaign to mobilize farmer support also included ads placed in growers' journals by the union, pointing to the union's good faith and patience in negotiations and deserbing the company contract with the growers.

Back pay, source of consiiderable disagreement in the negotiations, was set back to May 16, with the contract expiring March 1, 1949 in Camden and December 1, 1948 in Chicago. Wage talks reopen March 1, 1948, in both plants.

Six paid holidays, five of which were not in the old contracts, maternity leave (won for the first time) and improved overtime pay rounded out the agreement to bring Campbell workers the highest standards in the history of the industry. These gains, incidentally, add up to a 138 percent wage increase since the FTA came to Campbells in 1940.

REYNOLDS WORKERS END 38 DAY STRIKE

After 38 days of marching and singing on the picketline—plus considerable hardships—the members of FTA Local 22 ended their strike at the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company in Winston-Salem, N.C., early in June.

The settlement, ratified at a huge mass meeting in one of the city's ball parks, brought the workers an overall average increase totalling 12 cents an hour, plus union security and voluntary checkoff and including two paid holidays. Automatic progression raises are included in the 12 cent figure.

"It is the opinion of the union that the company is able to pay, and should have paid, a considerably greater wage increase, for the welfare of its workers and the community," the union negotiating committee said in announcing the settlement.

"The conduct of the strike, the responsibility of the leadership, and the discipline of the rank and file who for 38 days carried on a strike involving 10,000 workers with no arrests or violence is a complete answer to those mudslingers and would-be strikebreakers who attempted to provoke the workers and the community with wild attacks on the union."

This was in reference to redbaiting smears directed against Local 22 by the company-inspired local newspaper, which openly boasted that it had brought a House un-American committee "investigator" into the strike scene during the dispute.

These smears are due to continue, since the un-American committee has called three company stoolpigeons to Washington for a star chamber hearing this week.

The company, balked in its hope of disrupting the union during the strike, did not stop trying just because the strike was settled. Violating their own agreement, company bosses immediately began locking out many white and Negro strikers by denying them their jobs after the return to work.

This was immediately protested by Local 22, which as FTA News went to press had succeeded in getting many of the workers back on the job. Aid is still needed for relief of the still locked out workers, plus letters to the company protesting their tactics.

Nationwide CIO and liberal support was mobilized for the strike, biggest in the recent history of the South, and farm support from North Carolina and northeastern states was also rallied.

"We feel that the strike has resulted in a greater understanding on the part of all sections of the community — workers, farmers, businessmen and professional people concerning the beneficial role the union plays in building unity and organizing concerted action for the best interests of all," the negotiating committee said in its statement on the settlement of the strike.

Robeson Sings For Local 22

"Nobody can justify the treatment handed out to minorities and nobody can justify the way the lords of big business are trying to step on labor with the Taft-Hartley act," Paul Robeson, world-famous singer and actor, told an FTA assembled audience, the biggest outdoor meeting ever held in Winston-Salem, N.C.

He drew prolonged applause from the crowd, estimated at from 12 to 15,000 Negro and white workers when he said: "If fighting for democracy and the welfare of my people makes me a 'red,' well, then, so be it!

"If anyone wants to know why I'm singing for tobacco workers, here is the answer," Robeson added: "I cannot forget my father, who was born a slave in the tobacco country at Rocky Mount, N.C."

Over $700 was raised at the meeting for the relief of locked out Reynolds Tobacco (Camels) workers whom the company has refused to put back on the job after the strike. Robeson donated his own singing and speaking to Local 22, praising its "courageous struggle for Southern progress."

Dr. Max Yergan, head of the National Negro Council, also spoke at the meeting, praising Local 22 for its political success in electing the first Negro alderman to the city council since the Civil War.

Still Fighting . . .

The strike is over but the workers at the R. J. Reynolds Co. (Camel) in Winston-Salem are still fighting . . . and they still need our help.

Seeking a mean revenge, the company has locked out a number of workers by refusing to reinstate them in their jobs after the strike.

This means relief has to go to these workers, who have a struggle to live even when they're on Reynolds' payroll.

Send funds to: Local 22, FTA-CIO, 247½ N. Main St., Winston-Salem, N.C. Drop a postcard to the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., Winston-Salem, to tell them you don't like Camels so much when union members are pushed around.

OUT OF THE BAG . . .

It's no secret any more. Big business is spreading its anti-labor poison more openly than ever. Proof is in the following news item taken from the Commercial Appeal, a Memphis, Tenn. newspaper.

"The National Cotton Council has launched its anti-labor, anti-closed shop campaign with a message to all delegates. With the message is the text of two speeches, which the delegate is asked to make, or have made before organizations in his community, and to make certain that the local newspapers carry accounts of the talk.

"The speeches, prepared by members of the council staff, review the labor 'racketeering' of recent years and point to the need for legislation.

"Also sent to the delegates is a copy of a letter directed to all members of the cotton industry appealing for help in the drive against labor by writing or telegraphing members of Congress."

Here's FTA Chicago's winning baseball team, the Lions of Local 194, shown in their new uniforms. From left, standing: Benjamin Davis, Willie Williams, Booker Saunders, Robert Kennedy, Nathaniel Thomas, Howard Patterson. Kneeling: Henry Armstrong, Bob Clardy, Johnny Davis, Willie Jones, Walter Jones and Bert Clark.

10 POINTS IN FIGHT AGAINST TAFT ACT

FTA-CIO's National Policy Conference, meeting in Philadelphia after passage of the Taft-Hartley slave labor act, worked out a 10 point specific plan for fighting the act. Here are the 10 points in full, for the guidance of all locals and all members:

1. Because the new National Labor Relations Board set up under the Taft-Hartley Act is purely an instrument of the employers through which they can obstruct collective bargaining and harass our union at will, we will submit no issues to the Board and will deal directly or through other agencies with employers on all matters of bargaining rights and the adjustment of all disputes and grievances.

* * *

2. FTA-CIO will not comply with sections of the act which seek to deny Americans their basic rights to freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of assembly and petition. We will continue and intensify political action and political expenditures, not only because such rights are guaranteed to all Americans under the Constitution of the United States of America but also because such action is essential if we are to defend ourselves and our union from the attacks of the employers and their agents in Congress.

* * *

3. Because the so-called non-discrimination clause in the Taft-Hartley act is deliberately designed to deceive minorities into believing that the act protects them, we shall include specific clauses in all contracts barring discrimination against our members on grounds of race, sex, national origin, religious or political belief.

* * *

4. FTA-CIO locals will re-negotiate all contracts that expire in 10 months or less as rapidly as possible between now and August 22, 1947, the effective date of the Taft-Hartley act, in order to protect their bargaining status and to extend existing or improved union security clauses as far as possible until August 22, 1948.

This will be done in order to take advantage of the section of the act permitting unions to retain any form of union security contracted for between now and August 22, 1947, and because other sections of the act may create chaos in existing contracts.

* * *

5. Because the act gives employers free license to secure injunctions, sue and otherwise harass our union, both locally and nationally, FTA-CIO will not sign contracts containing no-strike clauses and will seek the removal of such clauses in existing contracts wherever possible.

At the same time, FTA-CIO will demand contractual protection against the seeking of injunctions and the filing of suits by employers, such protection to apply both locally and nationally.

* * *

6. FTA-CIO will ensure strict compliance by employers with all existing contracts, noting that the act does not become effective until August 22, 1947 and that closed shop and union security clauses now in force remain in force for the duration of the contract, regardless of its length, unless it is renewed or extended, automatically or otherwise at any time after August 22, 1947, in which case the union security clauses are no longer operative.

* * *

7. If any local officer or member is served with a subpoena under the law, the international union should be immediately notified so that it can lend prompt assistance and take the necessary steps in the event the international union is involved in the suit.

* * *

8. FTA will start an immediate campaign for the voluntary collection of political action funds of at least one dollar per member.

* * *

9. We shall strengthen the internal apparatus of the union—its stewards and local officers especially. We shall build up a corps of volunteer organizers and shall set up local defense funds.

* * *

10. FTA shall initiate and participate in joint activities with the AFL, the Railroad Brotherhoods and community and civic groups.

CIO Counsel Says:

RANK AND FILE UNITY WILL DEFEAT SLAVE LABOR LAW

The unity and fighting spirit of the rank and file workers will bring about the repeal of the Taft-Hartley act and the defeat of all its sponsors, CIO General Counsel Lee Pressman told the FTA National Policy Conference this week in Philadelphia.

Don't rely on lawyers to do the job for you, Pressman added quickly, explaining that many people have a feeling the law is so bad that the attornies will easily get it declared unconstitutional.

"That should be our last thought," the CIO Counsel said. "It certainly should not be a basis for our policy. The U. S. Supreme Court, like other courts, follows the election returns, just as Congress does. And when we fail to do a political job—as we failed in the 1946 elections—we must expect the courts to take a reactionary turn."

Before 1935, when the Wagner Act was passed, there was no law against organizing unions, but the right to organize was pretty much a theory only, since the employer had the right to do almost anything he cared to to stop workers from organizing, Pressman went on.

"Then the Wagner Act came along and said that the government will give legal protection to the right to organize and bargain collectively. Now the Taft-Hartley act literally repeals that legal protection. The Wagner act is gone and the National Labor Relations Board no longer gives any protection, he said.

"Over and above that the Taft-Hartley act creates an instrument which the employers can use to attempt to destroy unions. Before 1935, the boss had to do it himself. He had to hire his own thugs and spies, do his own union-busting at his own expense. Now the new Labor Relations Board is set up to do it for him. The Taft-Hartley act says that the government not only will do this job but must do it, under the law."

Stressing the point that we must avoid pessimism and despair over the passage of the act, Pressman said that all workers must understand its full meaning and purpose "or otherwise we will be helping Taft and Hartley to destroy us."

Step one in fighting the act, therefore, is to equip all the members of our unions with a thorough knowledge and understanding of just what the act means.

"To begin with, we have to realize that the days of the Wagner act are over. Everything we do now to fight for our rights must be done with the full realization of this fact. Otherwise, we shall fail."

Pressman, who is General Counsel of the United Steelworkers as well as of the CIO, said that this union, USA-CIO, was not going to make any use of the new National Labor Relations Board whatever.

This is necessary because the new Board gives no help whatever to unions, but on the contrary, is required to help the employer at every point. Election procedure, he added, is so long and complicated that it would take at least five years to secure union security under its regulations and under the act. Certification and recognition is equally impossible to attain. The new Board cannot disestablish a company union nor will it allow a union to discipline a stoolpigeon.

LEE PRESSMAN

Use of the Board, he said, at all times lays the union open to crippling charges of unfair labor practices from the employers. "Who in his right mind would want to use a Board set up like this one?" he asked.

Turning to the bans on union political action in the new law, Pressman observed that "no bolder attempt to gag the American people was ever made than this. Having passed a law to help the boss to break your union, the authors of the Taft-Hartley act now have the gall to say that unions must not try to work for the repeal of that law."

"And basically the plan depends for its hoped-for success on gagging you, on gagging the American people," he declared. "We would not be measuring up to our responsibilities as unionists and as Americans unless we fight and defeat this plot."

BY-PASS BOARD—FTA

(Continued from Page 1)

Every clause in the act is directed against the right of workers to organize and bargain collectively in unions of their own choosing.

FTA-CIO will fight this oppressive act until it is repealed.

"SUBMIT NO ISSUE"

Because the new National Labor Relations Board set up under the Taft-Hartley act has been designed as the agent of the employers against the interests of the workers, and because our members cannot hope for any solution of their problems of wages and living standards through the new Board, FTA will submit no issue to the Board and will deal directly with employers in all issues of collective bargaining and the adjustment of grievances and disputes.

Because the Taft-Hartley act gives employers free license to harass and injure our union through injunctions and damage suits, FTA-CIO will no longer include no-strike pledges in its contracts with employers and will seek to remove them where they at present exist.

FIGHT POLITICAL BANS

We will not comply with the sections of the act which seek to deny Americans their basic rights to freedom of speech, freedom of the press and assembly and petition. We will continue and intensify political activity and political expenditures not only because such rights are guaranteed to us by the United States Constitution but because such action is essential if we are to secure the repeal of the act that seeks to destroy our rights and our union.

As Americans and as free men and women, we must not fail to defend the liberties for which the American people have fought and died since the founding of our nation.

These liberties are now threatened by the Taft-Hartley act and its sponsors and supporters in both major political parties. Back of their threats to American freedom stand the National Association of Manufacturers and the Chamber of Commerce, which were the real authors of the Taft-Hartley act and are the only ones who stand to gain by imposing fascism on the U. S. A.

UNITY IN STRUGGLE

We pledge an unceasing campaign, in unity with our brother CIO unions, to bring the truth about tht fascist plot of the employers to all workers, farmers, white collar and professional workers, and others whose interests and sympathies are not with the bosses.

We will work for the utmost unity with the membership of the American Federation of Labor and with the Railroad Brotherhoods and all other genuine trade unions, not only in fighting the act but also in the political mobilization which now becomes necessary as never before.

We will mobilize the energies and militant spirit of our members in the fight to restore freedom to our beloved country. Freedom will return only when the Taft-Hartley act is repealed and when its sponsors, in Congress and outside it, are retired from public life.

To that end we pledge our time, our resources and our fighting spirit to the struggle for liberty and democracy in the United States of America.

Urge Political Action Beamed To New Party

(Continued from Page 1)

WARNING TO DEMOCRATS

At the time of the fight over the Taft-Hartley act, both President Philip Murray of the CIO and President Henderson of FTA warned Democratic Party leaders that "this vote will be the test of whether or not the Democratic Party can be the instrument for the protection of the interests of the American people against those who would destroy our democracy."

The warning was not heeded. Despite Truman's veto of the Taft-Hartley bill his Administration leaders did not seriously attempt to mobilize available Democratic or wavering Republican votes to uphold the veto. Administration leaders even failed to call two certain pro-veto Senators back to Washington for the vote—Thomas of Utah and Wagner of New York.

The Taft-Hartley act was written by the trusts, sponsored by the Republican Party and accepted without a struggle by the Democratic Party leadership.

Its passage proves that the workers cannot trust the Republican or Democratic Party to look after their welfare or the welfare of the American people generally. The Republican Party never had the confidence of the workers. It is now completely revealed as the party of the trusts.

II

The people's program for which we stand includes the following:

(1) Repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act and all repressive state laws with affirmation and strengthening of the right to organize and bargain collectively in unions of the workers' own choice. To achieve this end we dedicate ourselves to the defeat of all members of Congress who voted for the slave labor law.

(2) Our program must be based on the nationalization of the trusts that now exploit workers, farmers and consumers alike. This must go beyond the futile "trust busting" of the past to the point where monopoly corporations and national resources are run for the benefit of the people not for the profit of the rich.

LIST NATIONAL RESOURCES

The following industries and resources should be nationized at once: coal; utilities, including waterpower; railroads; banks; communications. They must be operated without exploitation of the workers, without gouging of the consumers and without profits to the few.

(3) We must achieve complete freedom of political and economic action by the people and must end all forms of political, economic and other discrimination against racial, national, political and religious minorities.

The program shall include a permanent Federal Fair Employment Practices Commission, a Federal Anti-Lynching Law, Federal repeal of the poll tax, all with appropriate criminal penalties for violation and with adequate funds to administer them.

(4) In an effort to meet the developing economic crisis, the program must provide greatly increased social benefits, guaranteeing adequate minimum wages, fair taxes and providing health, housing, education and social security for all, based on need and financed from the national income.

Such benefits must include a 75 cent an hour minimum wage, without exemptions; a tax system planned to allow a worker with a family of four the opportunity to enjoy a $3,500 a year income without taxes; a complete system of national health insurance; housing for all, with special emphasis on housing for veterans; free compulsory education through high school, with free college education for all who desire it; social security to provide against all hazards of sickness, old age, death and unemployment.

(5) The program must also conserve the national resources of the country through a series of regional developments modelled on the Tennessee Valley Authority. An immediate need is a Missouri Valley Authority to prevent a repetition of the disastrous floods that have ruined thousands of farmers.

(6) For the farming population and aid to the farmers, with special attention to the needs of working farmers. We endorse continuation of the price support program, adequate appropriations for soil conservation, rural electrification, crop insurance, and use of so-called surplus crops to meet the needs of the people. We will work for enactment of legislation to remove agricultural workers from their present status as second class citizens under all the laws of the land.

(7) This program must include a foreign policy of cooperation with peaceful countries and respect for the independence of all nations and the right to freedom of colonial peoples.

(See Next Column)

UNAMERICAN?

Why does the unAmerican Activities committee of Congress attack FTA and all other militant unions that fight for their members?

Why did the unAmerican committee stick its nose into the R. J. Reynolds strike in Winston-Salem, N. C.?

When did the unAmerican committee start fighting for the bosses and against the unions?

What did Franklin D. Roosevelt and Henry A. Wallace say about the unAmerican committee?

For the answers, get your copy of: "Who's unAmerican!", FTA's new pamphlet on the history of the unAmerican Activities committee of Congress. (see cut, page 70) Order from Press and Publicity Dept., FTA-CIO, 20th and Race Sts., Philadelphia 3, Pa. 10c per copy.

HIT 'UNAMERICANS' FOR SMEAR ON FTA

The unAmerican Activities Committee of Congress, set for a smear of FTA Local 22 and the FTA July 23 "has a long history of helping employers against unions" and protecting fascists, the FTA National Policy Conference said at its Philadelphia meeting this week.

Pointing out that the unAmerican committee announced its "investigation" of FTA during the R. J. Reynolds strike in Winston-Salem, N. C., the resolution said:

"This announcement was preceded by a violent campaign of slander and abuse against our union inspired by the Reynolds' company for the sole purpose of disrupting the strike and bringing about the defeat of a struggle for a living wage."

Full support was pledged to Local 22 and all other victims of the unAmericans' attacks in the resolution, which called on Congressmen to support Rep. Adolph J. Sabath (D., Ill.) in his bill to abolish the committee.

Fascist groups sheltered by the committee include "the Ku Klux Klan, the Nazi Bund and every variety of employer stooges, labor spies, stoolpigeons and the like, while persecuting union members, liberals and progressives," the resolution added.

Political action to rid Congress of all unAmericans and a campaign of exposing the real motives of the committee were declared to be "the way to meet this employer inspired offensive against our union."

ASK FIGHT ON RENT ROBBERY, EVICTIONS

A concerted fight against rent hikes, including active resistance to evictions, was urged on FTA members by the National Policy Conference meeting in Philadelphia this week.

The meeting also demanded an end to "racial, national and religious discrimination in housing, having in mind that such minorities are especially vicitimized by bad and inadequate housing."

It asked for quick passage of the Wagner-Ellender-Taft housing bill as a minimum program, plus a Congressional probe of the landlord's lobby in Washington.

"Not content with robbing the people of basic rights by passing the Taft-Hartley act, nor with picking their pockets by killing price control, big business lobbies in charge of Congress are now trying to rob the people of their homes," the resolution said.

"They have denied veterans and their families a roof over their heads, betraying the promises made to them during the war and in the course of the 1946 election.

"We hold both the Republican and Democratic parties responsible for this latest assault on the living standards of our veterans and our people generally."

REJECT 'TRUMAN DOCTRINE'

Such a foreign policy must reject the so-called "Truman Doctrine" and the Marshall plan which result in unwarranted interference in the affairs of other nations. It must stop arming fascist nations and must not permit the rebuilding of Germany and Japan as aggressors, now going on with British and American encouragement.

We recognize that the same Republican-Democratic coalition which took the first stop toward fascism through enactment of the Taft-Hartley Act has carried through a foreign policy which if continued will lead to disaster. The foreign policy of the United States must become an instrument of peace, not of profits for Standard Oil, General Motors, duPont or other U. S. monopoly trusts.

III

The basic aim of labor political action is to create a new political party, built on the people's needs and operated solely in their interest. A new American people's party must be made up of workers, farmers, white collar workers and others who exploit neither labor nor the people generally. Labor must take the initiative in the building of such a party because labor is the strongest organized force for democracy in our country. To this end FTA endorses the following program:

(1) A PAC committee in every FTA local to begin work NOW to build independent political organization in every ward and every precinct. We endorse the CIO-PAC drive for 1,000,000 volunteer ward and precinct workers, and we will participate to the utmost. FTA has already begun this work and we will build upon the organization already started in cooperation with farmers, white collar workers and other groups.

(2) Immediate action NOW, in every city, county and state where it is feasible, to place an independent political party on the ballot and build it by the means outlined above under (1). This does not preclude use of Democratic or even Republican party organization where such use will serve the people's interest in the coming elections.

Through the development of this machinery, labor will build for victory of people's candidates in local elections in 1947 and congressional elections in 1948.

(3) Looking toward the development of a national ticket in 1948 which will offer a vehicle for the fulfillment of the needs of the American people, with which the needs of labor are identical, we will work with all groups to put candidates in the field who will carry out the program we have outlined.

This program requires money. We endorse and will fulfill the CIO-PAC $1.00 drive.

HIT TAX STEAL

One of the crudest tax steals in U. S. history was denounced by the FTA National Policy Conference in a resolution attacking the Republican tax bill and demanding a tax system based on ability to pay.

Linking up the GOP bill with the Taft-Hartley act, the Conference pointed out that the bill would give a $2,500 a year worker a tax reduction of $28.50 a year—eight cents a day—while a $300,000 a year executive would get a refund of $37,430 a year—$102 a day.

"The 1947 tax bill was written by the direct agents of the Natl. Association of Manufacturers, the U. S. Chamber of Commerce and the Wall Street banks, and were asked to do so by Rep. Harold Knutson (R, Minn.), house sponsor of HR 1," the resolution said.

"This tax bill and the Taft-Hartley act are part of the same big business plan, which is to take money from the pockets of the poor and put it into the pockets of the rich."

The FTA meeting demanded a tax plan based on:

1. Allowing a family of four to have an income of $3,500 a year before taxes; 2) steep increases in upper bracket income taxes, plus a return of excess profits taxes on corporations; 3) plugging all tax loopholes that let the rich evade taxes; 4) no sales taxes of any description.

Here is a small group of Local 22 members that did a big job—the original commissary committee that set up the machinery for feeding R. J. Reynolds strikers and their families. From left are: Marie White, Claudia Brown, Walter Black, Moranda Smith, Ernest McKinny, Almeta Thomas, Henry Bowles, Connie Anderson, FTA Education Director; Mary Samuels, secretary; James G. Giles, chairman; Anna L. Thomas.

Veterans on the picketline, shown at left, helped convince R. J. Reynolds that a settlement was needed in FTA Local 22's strike at the Winston-Salem plant where Camel cigarettes are made.

Eviction was another weapon used in the attempt to break the spirit of R. J. Reynolds strikers in Winston-Salem, N. C. Mrs. Eula Williams, sole support of a sick husband and six children, found her furniture on the street when she couldn't pay rent. Local 22 found the family another place to live.

And here's the victory announcement, complete with smiles from the announcers, Moranda Smith, chairman of the Education Committee; Robert C. Black, co-chairman of Local 22; FTA President Donald Henderson; W. C. Shepperd, co-chairman; Etta Hobson, chairman of the Strike Committee.

In The Locals

Buckeye Workers Win

Three Buckeye Cotton Oil Co. locals in Jackson, Miss., Little Rock, Ark., and Selma, Ala., won new contracts with wage increases and other improvements in the past several weeks. Meanwhile a meeting has been set next month of all Buckeye Cotton Oil locals to map plans for obtaining a master contract in the fall.

Gains in the new contracts included a seven and a half cent across the board increase for the Jackson and Little Rock plants and five cents for the Selma plant; six paid holidays at time and a half pay if worked; improved vacations, time and a half pay after eight hours a day and 40 hours a week; improved seniority; call-in pay; elimination of the no-strike clause; and other improvements.

At the same time, Local 98, Little Rock, Ark., signed a new contract with the Virginia-Carolina Fertilizer Co. setting a 65 cent minimum wage, paid vacations, wage re-opening clause, six paid holidays and double time pay after 40 hours a week.

ACME STRIKE WON

By Alice Leslie, Reporter

Acme-Evans Milling Co. workers in Indianapolis returned to work on May 13, following a five-week strike with the signing of a new contract.

Union shop, 12 cent an hour increase, six paid holidays, night shift bonus, and a no discrimination clause are some of the gains made by Local 84.

The successful strike was marked by unity between the CIO production workers and the AFL truckmen.

Members of the negotiating committee included Walter Hill, Garold Leslie, Lincoln Collins, Henry Collins and Melvin Despain, assisted by Regional Director Jessica Rhine and International Organizer James Barnett.

Local 10 Boosts Pay & PAC

By Cornelius Simmons, Reporter

For the first time, year-round workers at the Imperial Tobacco Co. leafhouse in Greenville, N. C., received a week's vacation with pay this summer. It is one of many gains won by Local 10 since it organized the leafhouse workers in the area a year ago this month.

The Local's PAC campaign succeeded in getting over 210 Negro workers registered and voted for the first time in the town's political history. With a two-week school being planned, the Greenville Division of Local 10 hopes to have three times that number for the next election.

Negotiations are now going on in the leafhouses for a new contract.

They Still Need Aid

An appeal for financial aid to the Southern Cotton Oil Defense Committee to carry the Local 98 frame-up case to the U. S. Supreme Court was made to FTA locals this week by President Donald Henderson.

"Victims of the Southern Cotton Oil Co. frame-up in Little Rock, Arkansas, last year, still need help. These are the members of FTA Local 98 who were arrested and railroaded to jail after Willie Campbell, FTA striker, was murdered by a company goon," Henderson said.

After winning a new trial from the Arkansas State Supreme Court, the Southern Cotton Oil frame-up victims were convicted again in the lower court. Lee Pressman, General Counsel for the CIO, will bring the case before the U. S. Supreme Court.

He urged FTA locals to rush funds to fight the frame-up to: Georgia Morris, Secretary, Souther nCotton Oil Strikers Defense Committee, 119 Glover Building, Little Rock, Arkansas.

62 Wins Raise

Wage increases ranging from 15 to 25 cents an hour, union shop and one week vacations with pay, were won by members of Local 62 in a new contract with the Mt. Vernon Milling Company in Mt. Vernon, Indiana.

Members of Local 62 negotiating committee were James Halcomb, Malcomb Boyer, William Banks and Dorsey Roberts.

NEW PACT IN LOCAL 59

Wage increases of 12 cents an hour for non-seasonal workers were won by Local 59 at the Reid-Murdock cannery in Rochester, Minn., with the signing of a new contract.

New starting rates for seasonal workers are 90 cents an hour for men, and 80 cents for women. Improved seniority and leaves of absence for maternity for seasonal as well as non-seasonal workers are additional gains.

During negotiations, Local 59 met with the State Unemployment Compensation Commission and got it to agree to pay seasonal workers compensation during the off-season instead of forcing them to go out on lower-paying jobs.

78 Has Hospital Plan

A new hospital insurance plan in Arizona, known as the Arizona Blue Cross Plan, was discussed and accepted by members of Local 78, Phoenix, Arizona, at a meeting last month.

In recommending the non-profit hospitalization plan, the local sent a letter to all its members, inviting them to join it and bring in their family as well. It provides the best method available of obtaining the best hospitalization at the lowest possible cost. The plan pays hospital bills directly to the hospital instead of in cash as most health insurance does.

Raises Won In Wisconsin

Dairy and poultry workers at the Swift Co. plant in LaCrosse, Wis., returned to work recently with a 10 to 12c an hour increase and a group insurance plan.

The workers, members of Local 448, received financial assistance during their strike from the LaCrosse CIO Council and the local unions which voted dollar assessments.

At the U. S. Glue Co., Carrollville, Wis., Local 495 won a 10 cent increase, insurance and improved vacations. Minimum wage is $1.03½ for men and 98 cents for women.

Dow Cheese workers won a 10 cent increase, six holidays, at straight time pay, plus time and a half for all hours worked on holidays.

20c TOTAL OF 64

Total wage increase of 20 cents an hour over the past year were added up by members of Local 64 at the Van Camp Seafood cannery in San Diego, Calif., with the extension of their contract until July 1, 1948. Wages were raised five cents an hour for hourly workers and ½ cent a unit for piece-rate.

It was the first union agreement reached in the city of San Diego following the passage of the Taft-Hartley bill.

Van Camp workers are the highest paid in the industry.

FOOD PROFITS RISE AS HUNGER GROWS

By Joseph Califf
Research Director

"Corporate managements face serious problems in preparing their annual reports for 1946", says a recent editorial in the New York Journal of Commerce.

As you read on, you find that the "problem" is how to rig these reports so that labor unions won't be able to find out what outrageous profits the bosses are making. The Journal fears that if the unions do find out they will seize upon these reports as ammunition for a drive for wage increases and costly fringe concessions".

The Journal of Commerce proposes a very simple solution to the problem, namely, to abolish the word "profits" altogether in financial reports and substitute for it "results of operations". The idea seems to be that profits by another name will not smell as bad.

It is not difficult to see why employers find profits embarrassing these days. In 1946, American corporations made 12 and a half billion dollars in clear profit, by far the highest figure in history and three and a half billion dollars more than in 1945.

Moreover, it is expected that profits in 1947 will be even higher, possibly as much as 16 billion dollars. This is borne out by the Federal Reserve Board, which reports that the net profits of large industrial corporations were 171 per cent greater in the first three months of 1947 than in the same months of 1946.

Up In Front

The food industry is right up front in the parade of profiteers. Figures on 98 food processing companies show profits after taxes totalling $381,725,000 in 1946. This is nearly double what these companies made the year before, when they took in "only" $203,081,000.

Twelve canning companies clear profit. This is 119 percent alone took home $26,787,000 in more than they made in 1945. Other groups of food processors did almost as well. For example, profits increased 83 percent in the dairy industry, 114 percent in baking, 90 percent in grain processing. Profits for these various groups are shown below:

Industry Group	Number of companies	Profits after taxes 1945	Profits after taxes 1946	Percent increase
Fresh fruit & veg. packing	2	$ 5,618,000	$ 6,406,000	14.0%
Canning	12	12,249,000	26,787,000	118.6
Sugar and Confectionery	22	32,317,000	44,930,000	39.0
Grain Processing	13	30,379,000	60,443,000	98.9
Baking	16	25,151,000	53,912,000	114.3
Dairy	14	38,802,000	70,996,000	82.9
Meat Packing	10	33,081,000	73,902,000	123.3
Miscellaneous Food	9	25,484,000	44,349,000	74.0
Total	98	$203,081,000	$381,725,000	88.0

Part of the increase was due to the repeal of the excess profits tax but most of it was plain price profiteering. In other words, consumer footed the bill for most of the increase in the food industry's profits.

How much of this gravy was put away last year by the bosses for whom FTA members work? Figures are available for 23 companies with which FTA has contracts. The lowest percent increase in net profits among these companies was 19 percent. The average gain in rake-off was 95.9 percent. Ten of the companies more than doubled their 1945 profits. Hunt Food, Inc. in nine months made 860 percent more profits after taxes than in 12 months of the preceding year.

Your Work

Another way of looking at the picture is in terms of return on net worth. This shows you how much the owners of the companies are getting out of their investment and your work; what they get back in profit for every dollar put into the business.

According to studies made by the OPA, the average return on net worth for large corporations was 8.1 per cent before the war. Bureau of Internal Revenue figures show only a 2.9 per cent return for all corporations, large and small.

According to the National City Bank of New York, the average return for 2958 leading corporations was 9.5 per cent in 1946.

Now look at our 23 FTA companies. Only three of them got as low a return as the National City Bank 1946 average. Thirteen showed a return of over 15%. Hunt Foods in the first nine months of operation raked in 43c on every dollar invested. Central Soya, Inc. took 32c on the dollar.

Even a relatively low return can mean millions of dollars in profit. Libby, McNeill & Libby, for example, received 10.7c back on the dollar. But multiply that 10.7c by the company's net worth of $45,854,000 and you have profits of nearly $5,000,000.

As an indication of what's happening to food profits in 1947, Federal Reserve Board figures show that in the first three months of this year 48 food, beverage and tobacco companies made $103,000,000—or 58 per cent—more than in the same months of 1946.

Is it any wonder the bosses are embarrassed? Any wonder they want to conceal their profits from the unions? Any wonder they don't want the spotlight turned on facts like these:

Corporate profits after taxes up 40 percent during 1946 and still rising. Food profits up even more.

Wholesale prices-up 32 percent during 1946 and still rising.

Weekly wages, including premium pay, in manufacturing industries, up only 13 percent during 1946.

Factory payrolls 9 percent less in 1946 than in 1945.

Whether you call it "profit" or "results of operations", the money is there to pay the wage increases we need if we are to stave off a major depression.

Who's un-American! is the challenge hurled at the House un-American Activities committee in FTA's new pamphlet, cover shown above. Pamphlet details anti-union history of un-American committee, shows how it has operated always on the side of the bosses and against unions. Order from FTA Press and Publicity Dept., 20th and Race Sts., Philadelphia 3, Pa. Price 10c a copy.

FTA Local 78 and other CIO leaders in Phoenix, Ariz., were active in pressing for the Truman veto of the Taft-Hartley slave labor act. Here they are seen starting off a petition campaign. Vada Lee, left, of CIO Steelworkers 3937; Rufus (Tex) Bell, FTA 78; Matt Jurich, USA-CIO 3937 and Howard F. Vay are shown.

FTA ASKS FEPC NOW; 75c PAY BASE

Robert Lathan, FTA vice-president, set the poll-taxers back on their heels last month when he testified at the Senate Labor Committee for a Federal Fair Employment Practice Committee.

"Who profits by discrimination?" he asked. "Not the white worker, who finds himself faced with even greater exploitation when the minority worker is denied a job. Jim Crow breeds bad conditions in industry for everyone. The Southern white worker is paid less than his Northern fellow worker, precisely because discrimination is worse in the South.

"Nobody profits from jim crow except the employer, who uses it to maintain a reserve of cheap Negro labor as a constant threat to the wages and working conditions of the white employes. That is the whole reason why discrimination exists, because it makes super-profits."

Pointing to the success of the FEPC set up by President Roosevelt during the war, Lathan called for "federal action to end discrimination now," through the passage of S. 984 for a permanent FEPC.

ASK 75c PAY

FTA'S demand for the establishment of a 75c an hour minimum wage was voiced by FTA Washington Representative Elizabeth Sasuly at the Senate subcommittee hearings on amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act. "Thirty dollars a week is not much for a family to live on," she said, pointing to the super-profits of the industries in which FTA members work.

"The scandalous increases in food prices in the face of continuing substandard wages in the food industries indicate that action by Congress is long overdue," she added.

Sasuly urged the elimination of seasonal overtime exemptions, area of production and other exemptions which cheat workers in the food and tobacco industries of the full wages due them.

Proposed cuts in the Department of Agriculture budget, she called a "clear attempt by monopoly interests to drive the farmers to ruin."

"The same group that is trying to smash labor is also trying to wipe out the small farmer" through cutting down on soil conservation and government aid to the farmers.

New Officers

Two new officials of the international union were elected by the Executive Board at its July meeting in Philadelphia, Pa.

They are: Lewis A. Bentzley, to be international vice-president and Herbert Kling, to be international Executive Board member.

Bentzley was Regional Director for the mid-Atlantic Region and Herbert Kling is President of Local 80, Camden, N.J.

CORN (CORN, THAT IS) FOUND IN PRICE PLOT

A conspiracy to fix prices and suppress competition was charged against 19 corn products companies last month by the Federal Trade Commission. Among the 19 companies named which hold a monopoly on 95% of the corn products manufactured and sold in the U. S., were Penick and Ford Ltd., and National Starch Products, Inc., where FTA holds contracts.

Held in violation of both the FTC Act and the Robinson-Patman Act, the Federal Trade Commission said the firms are guilty of "unfair and oppressive discrimination against portions of the purchasing public in large areas."

Other firms named included the Corn Products Refining Co., A. E. Staley Mfg. Co., American Maize Products Co., the Union Starch and Refining Co., etc.

12c WON IN DEPEW

By Bob Williams, Reporter

Quaker Oats Local 115 in Depew, N.Y., won a new contract recently with a 12 cent an hour increase retroactive to January 8, and improved vacations.

$1.15 BASE IN CALIF.

Higher minimum wages of $1.15 an hour for men and $1 an hour for women were won recently by FTA at the Fruitvale Canning Co. in Oakland, Calif., with the signing of a temporary agreement.

The agreement, which also provides for hiring of regular and seasonal workers by seniority, will run while negotiations continue for a contract.

FTA SCHOOL TEACHES 3 Rs OF TAFT ACT

By Cynthia Isenberg

Never were a group of FTA members so eager to learn the know-how of building a strong union as were the 40 FTA stewards and union leaders who attended the FTA School held at Nature Friends Camp, not far from Philadelphia, July 6 to 12. "How can we lick the Taft-Hartley Act and maintain our union," was the question on everyone's mind.

Every normal union function became a topic of intense discussion. Sessions on negotiating contracts, political action, strike organization were tackled with vigor. They knew the job ahead would be difficult and they buckled down to a week of hard work.

President Henderson, bombarded with questions on the meaning of the new slave labor law, summed up the discussion by emphasizing the need for more rank and file leadership in the union, more intensified political action, and more effective shop stewards.

When Richard Sasuly, author of a book on German fascism, described the rise of fascism in Germany, the intentions behind the Taft-Hartley law became clear. "What kind of program should we adopt to keep fascism from happening here?" one of the students from the Klein Cigar plants asked. "Defeat the congressmen who voted for the Taft-Hartley Act in 1948," was the answer.

How to build ward and precinct political organization with the workers in the shop, how to get out the vote, these were problems taken up with FTA Washington Representative Elizabeth Sasuly. She found the students raring to go, seeking practical answers about the day to day job of building independent labor political machinery.

Most of the sessions were done workshop style. Study on contract negotiation was done across the table from the "boss"—FTA Vice-President Armando Ramirez, who pulled every stunt a boss can pull. But he proved no match for the two negotiating committees headed by Miriam Cliff, president of Local 638, and Ted Robinson, young shop steward from Campbell Soup Local 80.

Committees prepared reports on contracts in the 16 plants they represented under the guidance of FTA Research Director Joe Califf. Here they compared their gains with the goals in FTA's wage and contract policy.

With Regional Director Lew Bentzley the students took up the functioning of shop stewards and the handling of grievances.

Members who had never handled a mimeograph machine before, were putting out leaflets under the instructions of Cynthia Isenberg, of the FTA Publicity Department. Many, like Gertrude White, illustrated them with original drawings. Many took their leaflets home to use for calling their next union meeting where they would report on the Taft-Hartley Act.

Following a quiz on the week's work prepared by Education Director Connie Anderson, the students received diplomas. Graduation day was celebrated around a roaring campfire, roasting hot dogs, and singing union songs.

Next morning 40 FTA leaders boarded busses to attend the FTA National Policy Conference in Philadelphia, then to return to their locals and put their union education to work.

"Great Day, the union's marching" was one of the favorites in the after supper sings at Highlander Folk School, Monteagle, Tenn., during the two-week FTA term May 11 through 24. Here Washington O'Bannon, steward at Quaker Oats Local 19, Memphis, Tenn., sings a verse of "Great Day" to be followed by the whole group in the chorus. Zylphia Horton of Highlander staffs plays accordion.

LABOR FACT BOOK— A WORKER'S 'MUST'

By Connie Anderson, Education Director

The new Labor Fact Book is out. Every FTA Organizer and Local Union will want at least one copy, for it carries facts to answer many questions.

How many people are organized in the United States? Here you find the figures of union membership—adding up to about 15 million union members, out of 50 million people who work for a living.

What are the living standards of workers? Here you will find figures on the rise in cost of living, wage rates, average weekly earnings and labor productivity leading to the conclusion that seven out of 10 families do not get enough to maintain the Heller committee's modest standard for an American family.

Facts on monopoly control of industry are listed from many government reports, as well as the main facts on profits and dividends. Included is much information generally not made public, such as the fact that only 61,000 people receive one-half of all dividends from U. S. industry.

There are also chapters on the conditions of the Negro people, on farmers and farm workers, on labor abroad, including an account of the World Federation of Trade Unions, and a chapter on Political Action.

Eleven anti-labor organizations are described, and "some are linked in various ways with the long string of fascist and semi-fascist organizations that fought against all the foreign and domestic policies of Franklin D. Roosevelt."

The facts show that each of these organizations is striving to defeat the efforts of the American people to win good wages and a secure life. In state and national legislatures and in the newspapers and magazines they are nothing but propagandists for the most selfish Big Business interests—and their disgraceful, unpatriotic record is laid bare in Labor Fact Book.

Labor Fact Book 8 is a short volume—200 pages of boiled down facts—so everything cannot be found there. FTA members will be surprised, for example, that there is no mention of the special discrimination against food, tobacco and cotton processing workers under the Wage and Hour law, but this does not lessen the value of the information which is there.

The Taft-Hartley bill was passed since this book was printed, so a few of the sections are not up to date. Also, recently issued figures show that the estimate of 1946 corporation profits in Labor Fact Book is low. The annual rate of profit earned by corporations in the last quarter of 1946 was actually 16.2 billion dollars, after taxes—compared to about four billion dollars in pre-war years—an earlier figure of which course can be found in this Labor Fact Book.

Order from Labor Research Association, 80 East 11 St., New York 3, N. Y., for $1.90 per copy.

Locals Merge

FTA announced the amalgamation of Locals 283 in Greenville, Miss. and Local 189 in Hollandale and Leland, Miss. The new local was chartered as Local 129.

Officers are Jerry Mayo, president; Will Owen, vice-president; and Titus Green, secretary-treasurer.

FTA Wins Rights In 6

NLRB elections in the past few weeks were won at the following plants by FTA:

All Bound Box Co., Auburndale, Fla., 47 for FTA; none for AFL; and 21 for no union. West Memphis Cotton Oil Co., West Memphis, Ark., 59 for FTA to nine for no union. Southern Box Co., Orlando, Fla., 27 for FTA to nine for company union. Riverbrand Rice Co., Houston, Texas, 33 for FTA to 14 for no union.

In Houston, Texas, the union won an election at the Litowich Cotton Compress for which figures are not available. Workers at the Demain Food Co., Ayden, N. C., won recognition for FTA as the bargaining agent without an NLRB election.

Oil Council Meet

The first industry-wide meeting of all cotton oil workers in the South will be held in Memphis, Tenn., August 16 and 17.

With President Donald Henderson, the delegates will work out a common program for all cotton oil negotiations for new contracts next season. The conference will also cover how the new Taft-Hartley law affects cotton oil workers.

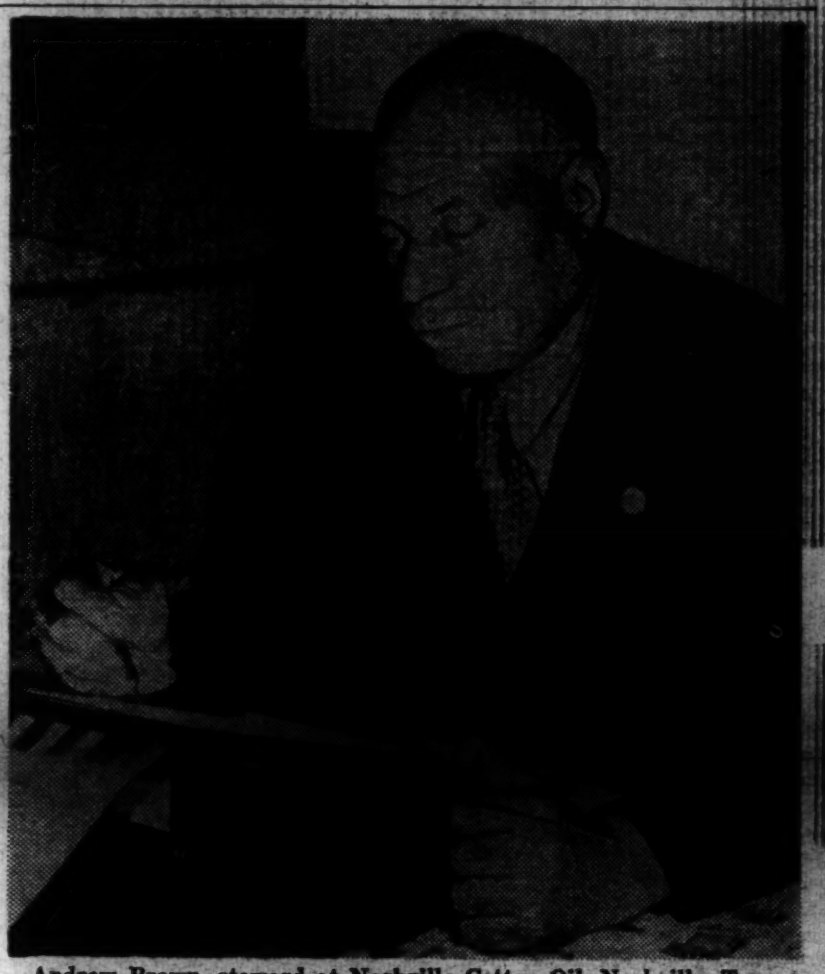
All cotton oil locals are asked to send at least one delegate. At the same time a special meeting will be held of the Buckeye cotton oil council.

REACH FOR A . . .

The American Tobacco Co., maker of Lucky Strikes, doesn't want its executives to go around feeling uninspired like ordinary workers, so it has worked out a nifty incentive plan.

No, it doesn't hand out cartons of Luckies — just plain money. To company Pres. Vincent Riggio and five vice presidents each year goes 10% of all earnings above $15.5 million. This year it works out to a $215,000 bonus for Riggio in addition to a basic salary of $120,000, and similar tidy sums for his assistants.

American Tobacco's profits in 1946 jumped to $29.8 million, up from $19.7 million the year before.



Andrew Brown, steward at Nashville Cotton Oil, Nashville, Tenn., and FTA student at the Highland Folker School letters a leaflet announcing a union meeting.

BLAST US ATTACK ON CIO FISHERMEN

The trial and conviction of 14 officers and members of the CIO Fishermen's union, on alleged violations of anti-trust laws, was condemned by FTA President Donald Henderson as a "travesty of justice," and a "sharp warning of similar persecutions of other unions."

The Fishermen were indicted and fined by the U. S. Dept. of Justice anti-trust division on the grounds of "interfering with interstate commerce," because they picketed and organized an unfair list of employers who refused to bargain collectively.

"This could be applied to similar actions by other unions, FTA-CIO included," Henderson pointed out.

"At the same time, the Department consistently fails to prosecute the real monopolies of this country—such trusts as Standard Oil, the food and tobacco trusts and other corporations which exploit workers, farmers and consumers alike, and which restrict our boasted "free enterprise" down to the vanishing point.

"I am sure that the members of FTA, who know the heavy hand of the trusts on their own wages and living standards, will support the Fishermen's union in their fight against this evidence of official government union busting," Henderson wrote.

CIO FIGHTS BACK AT TAFT ACT

CIO unions the country over are planning to fight the Taft-Hartley slave labor law either by by-passing the new National Labor Relations Board or by defying the unconstitutional bans on labor political action. Here is a list of such unions to date:

FTA-CIO (by-pass NLRB, defy political ban); United Steelworkers of America; United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers; United Auto Workers; International Longshoremen and Warehousemen; United Shoe Workers; United Office and Professional Workers.

In addition, a number of other CIO unions have publicly declared that they will defy the act's bans on union political action and expenditures, notably the Amalgamated Clothing Workers.

How about the AFL Teamsters? Well, President Dan Tobin has told his union, according to the New York Times, to obey the act "scrupulously."